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a single cam ring in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members, the single cam ring being adapted to be displaced independently of approaching displacements of said sidewall mold members toward each other, to thereby simultaneously displace all of said upper and lower segments radially inwards while said upper and lower segments are in abutment with each other.

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2. The vulcanizing mold according to claim 1, wherein said upper and lower segments are indirectly engaged with said upper and lower base plates, respectively, such that they are radially displaceable relative to respective one of said sidewall mold members.

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5. The vulcanizing mold according to claim 1, further comprising abutment means for defining the upper limit position of the cam ring relative to the upper base plate.

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6. A vulcanizing method for vulcanizing pneumatic tires with a vulcanizing mold which comprises: (i) upper and lower base plates; (ii) upper and lower sidewall mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively; and (iii) upper and lower tread mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively, the upper and lower tread mold members being in direct engagement with a cam ring; (iv) said upper and lower tread mold members being constituted of upper segments and lower segments, respectively, which are radially expanded and contracted relative to the upper and lower sidewall mold members, respectively; said method comprising the steps of:

displacing said upper and lower sidewall mold members toward each other so that said upper and lower segments are brought into abutment with each other; and

operating the cam ring to simultaneously displace all of said segments radially inwards and relative to said upper and lower sidewall mold members, with said upper segments in abutment with said lower segments.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 7 is cancelled and claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are amended. Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.